

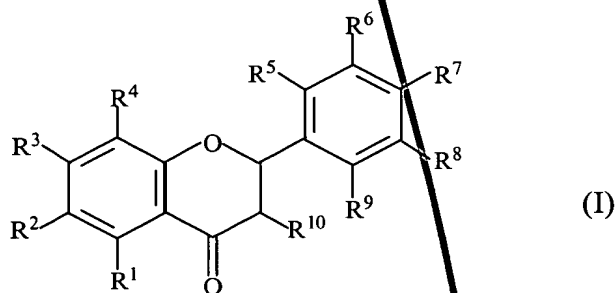
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) an extract obtained from a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and citrus unshiu comprising a polymethoxyflavone that is at least one compound represented by formula (I):



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , and R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a sugar residue, and at least four of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , and R^{10} are methoxy groups;

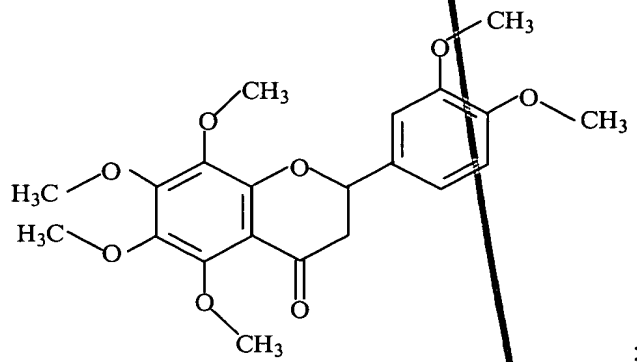
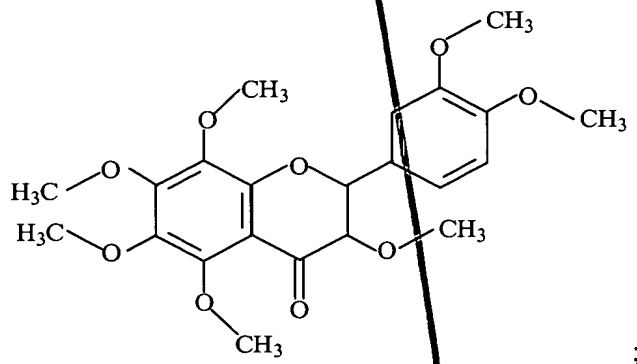
wherein the polymethoxyflavone is contained in an amount of 0.00005 to 10 wt % in the composition;

(b) 0.01 to 10 wt % of a whitening agent selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid and its salts or esters, hydroquinone, placental extracts, ellagic acid, and mixtures thereof; and

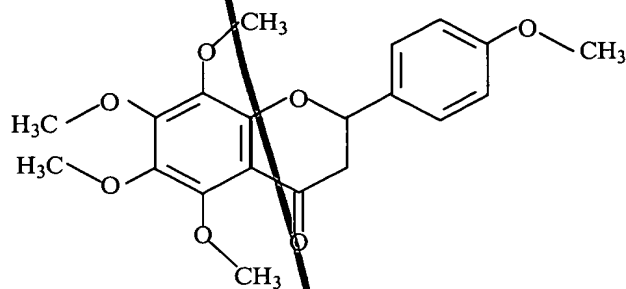
(c) the remainder being a base consisting essentially of water and at least one selected from the group consisting of ~~lower~~-ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, polyhydric alcohols, hydrocarbon oils, natural fats, natural oils, synthetic triglycerides, ester oils, waxes, polysiloxanes, oils, anionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, semipolar surfactants, water soluble polymers, organic salts, inorganic salts, anti-inflammatory agents, pH regulators, germicidal agents, chelating agents, antioxidants, ultra violet absorbers, pigments, and fragrances.

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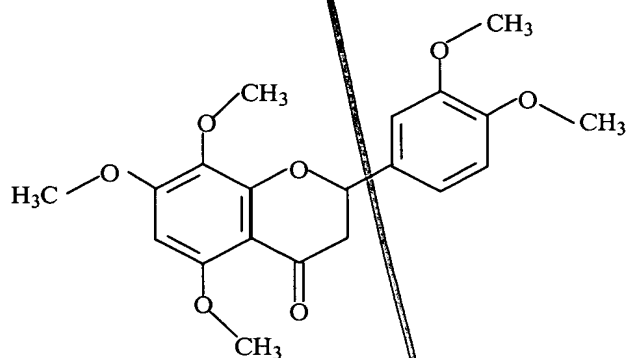
Claim 2 (previously amended): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the extract comprises at least one polymethoxyflavone selected from the group consisting of



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; and



Claim 3 (previously amended): The cosmetic composition of claim 2, wherein the extract comprises at least one polymethoxyflavone selected from the group consisting of 5,6,7,8,3',4'-hexamethoxyflavone and 5,6,7,8,4'-pentamethoxyflavone.

Claims 4-14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously amended): The composition of claim 1, wherein the extract is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and Citrus unshiu to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol,

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ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 1,3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in ethyl acetate, adding water thereto, stirring, separating into layers, removing a water layer, and distilling off the ethyl acetate to obtain a dry solid product (S2); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S2) in a solvent, and subjecting it to liquid column chromatography.

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Claim 16 (previously added): The composition of claim 15, wherein the liquid column chromatography uses silica gel and/or alumina as a filler and a mixed solution of hexane/ethanol in a volume proportion of 70/30 to 97/3 as an eluent.

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Claim 17 (previously amended): The composition of claim 1, wherein the extract is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant that is at least one of Citrus tachibana and Citrus unshiu to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 1,3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in hexane and/or chloroform, removing a precipitate, distilling off the hexane and/or chloroform to obtain a dry solid product (S3); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S3) in a solvent and subjecting it to liquid column chromatography.

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Claim 18 (previously amended): The composition of claim 17, wherein the liquid column chromatography uses silica gel and/or alumina as a filler, and a mixed solution of hexane/ethanol in a volume proportion of 70/30 to 97/3 as an eluent.
